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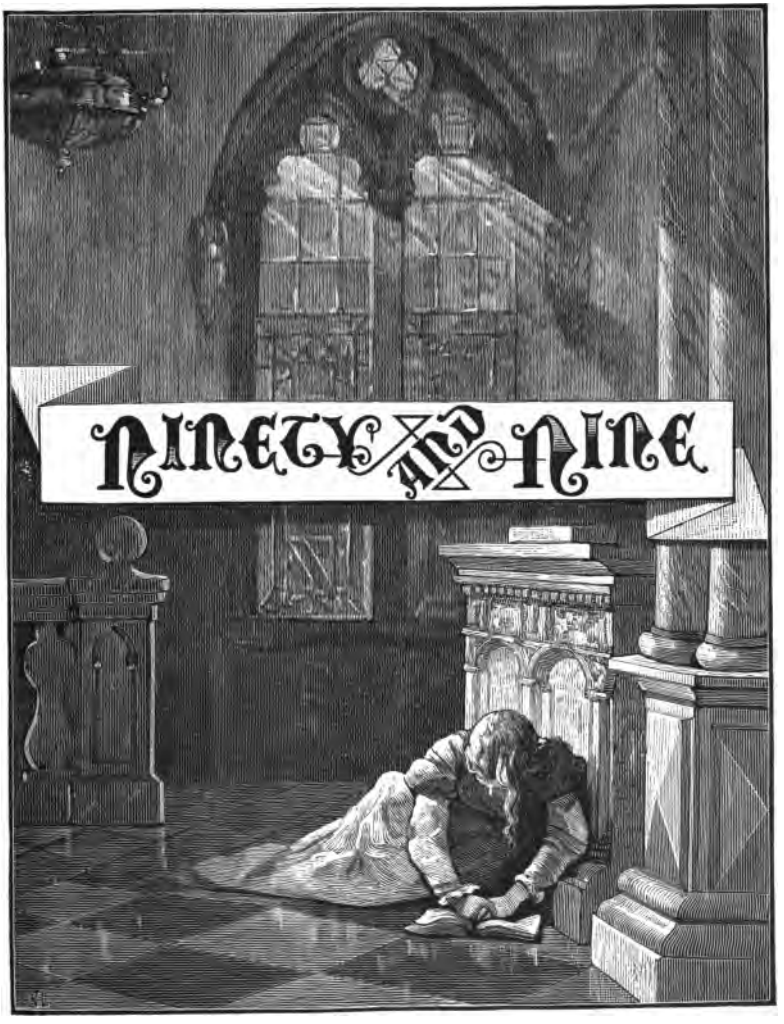

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BY

ELIZABETH C. CLEPHANE.

DESIGNS BY ROBERT LEWIS.

ENGRAVED BY WM. J. DANA.

BOSTON:
D. LOTHROP & COMPANY,
1877.

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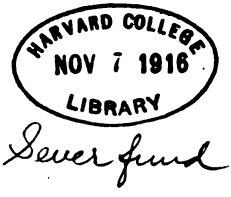

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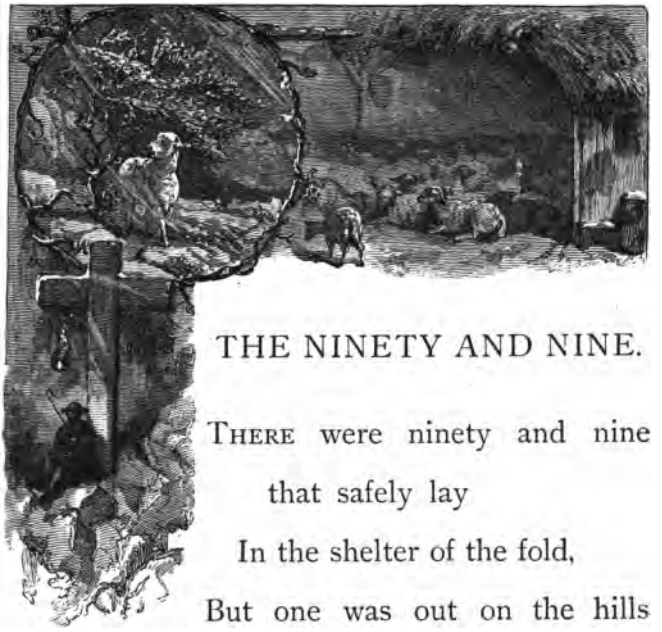

THE NINETY AND NINE.

THERE were ninety and nine
that safely lay
In the shelter of the fold,
But one was out on the hills
away,
Far off from the gates of gold —
Away on the mountains wild and bare,
Away from the tender Shepherd's care.

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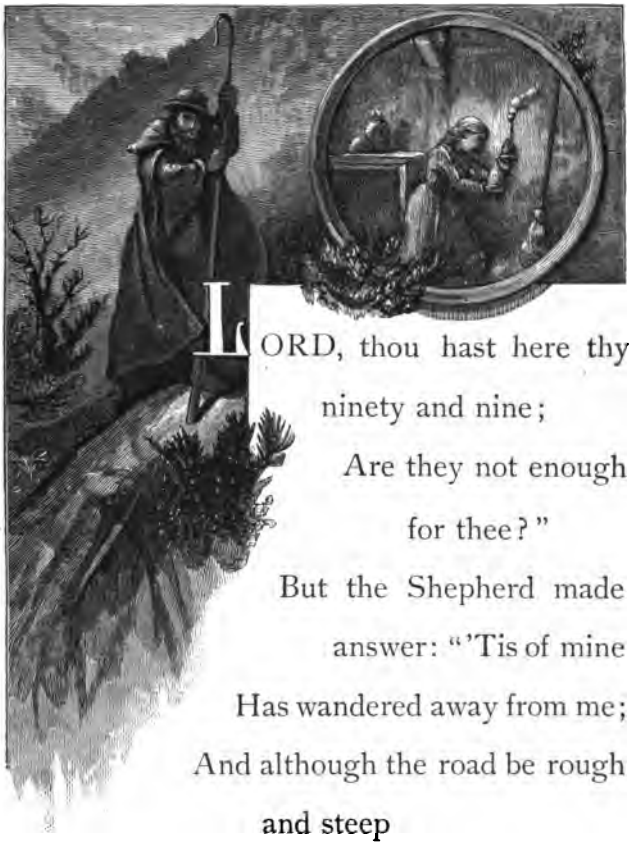

LORD, thou hast here thy
ninety and nine;
Are they not enough
for thee?"
But the Shepherd made
answer: "'Tis of mine
Has wandered away from me;
And although the road be rough
and steep
I go to the desert to find my
sheep."

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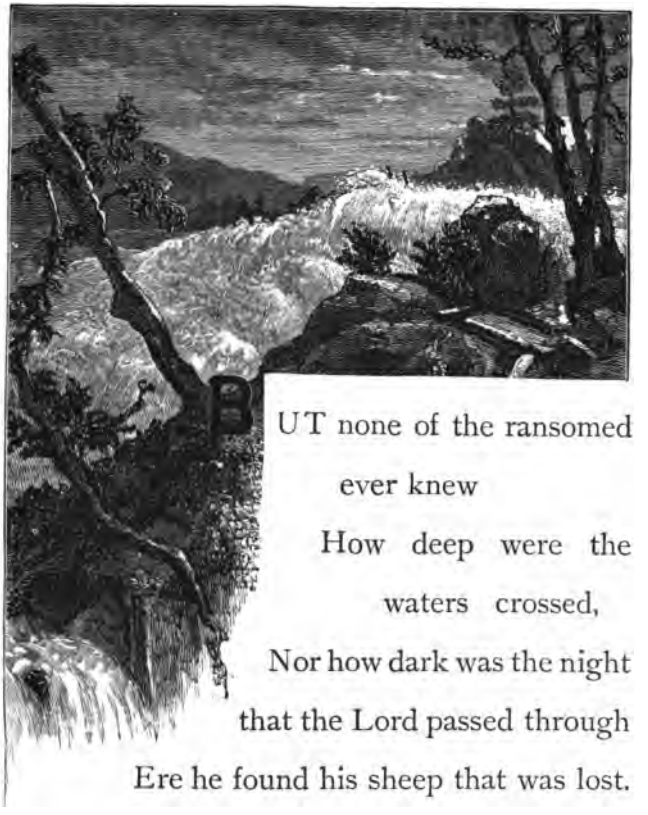

BUT none of the ransomed
ever knew
How deep were the
waters crossed,
Nor how dark was the night
that the Lord passed through
Ere he found his sheep that was lost.

Out in the desert he heard its cry —
Sick and helpless, and ready to die.

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Sick and helpless, and ready to die.

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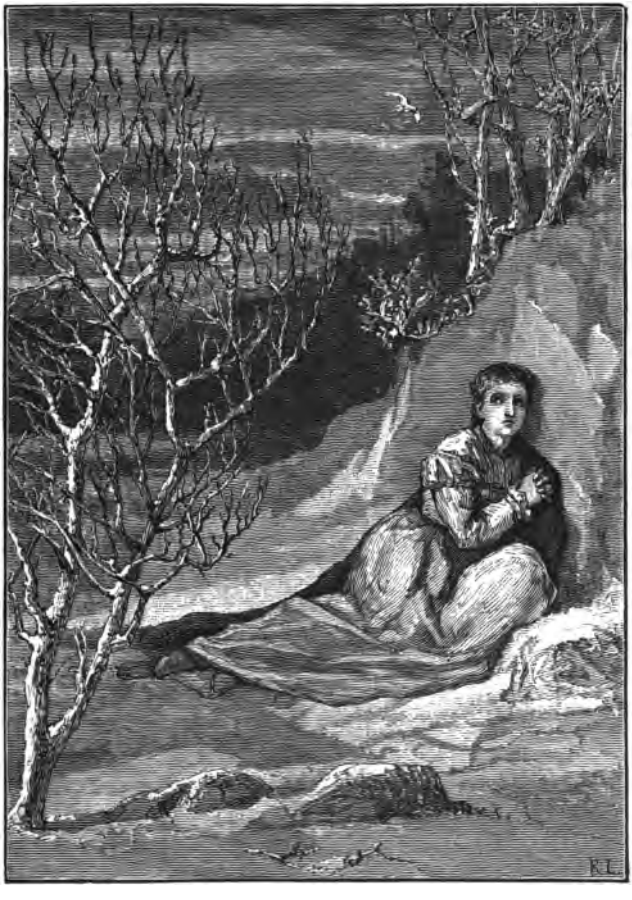

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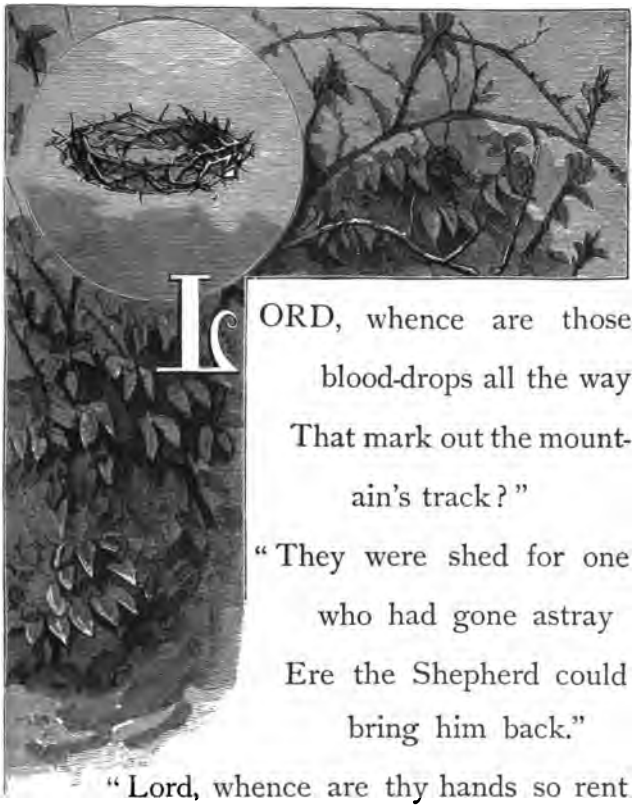

"LORD, whence are those
blood-drops all the way
That mark out the mount-
ain's track?"
"They were shed for one
who had gone astray
Ere the Shepherd could
bring him back."
"Lord, whence are thy hands so rent
and torn?"
"They are pierced to-night by many a thorn."

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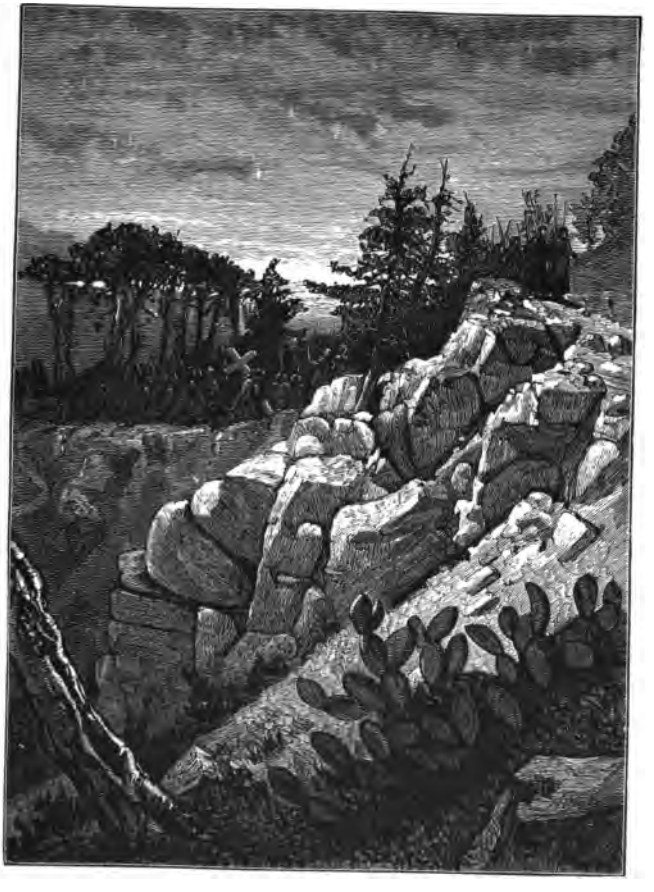

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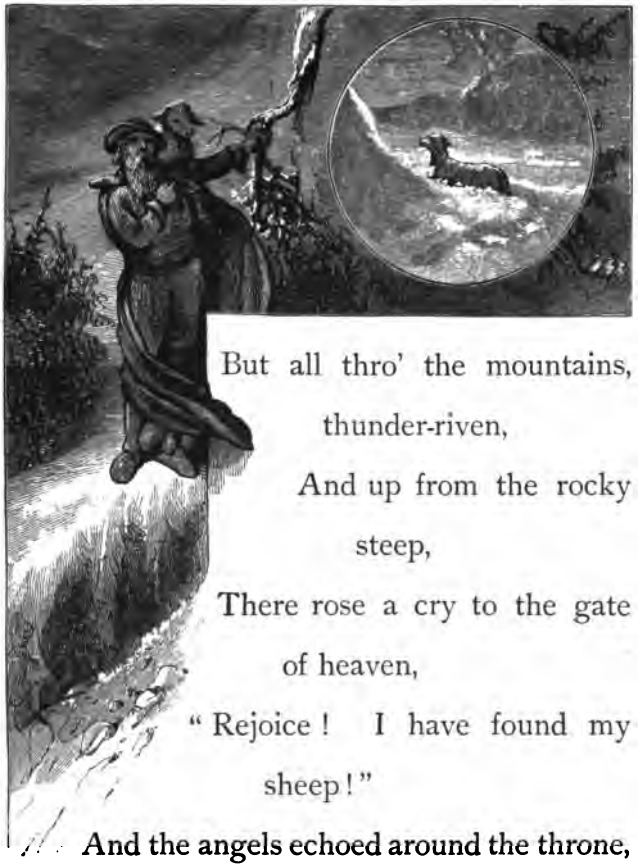

But all thro' the mountains, thunder-riven,
And up from the rocky steep,
There rose a cry to the gate of heaven,
"Rejoice! I have found my sheep!"
And the angels echoed around the throne,
"Rejoice, for the Lord brings back his own!"

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the throne,
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